

RAJYA SABHA

*Wednesday, the 15th November, 1972
the 24th Kartika, 1894 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

KHOSLA COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE WORKING OF SANGEET NATAK AKADEMY

*61. SHRI LOKANATH MISHRA : †
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :
SHRI HABIB TANVIR :
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR
MUKHERJEE :
MISS SAROJ PURSHOTTAM
KHAPARDE :
SHRI SUHRID MULLICK
CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Khosla Committee appointed to review the working of the National Academies has brought out the facts that the Sangeet Natak Akademi :

(i) has not been successful in fulfilling its objectives and that its work needed to be improved a great deal;

(ii) has not been successful in fields of music, dance and finding new talent in the drama;

(iii) gave its awards not always on grounds of merit;

(iv) has not the adequate representation of artists and persons, knowledgeable in the arts, on its General Council and many of its Council members do not possess sufficient knowledge of the arts to make any meaningful contribution;

(v) has a set up with administrative expenses too high, ranging from 64 per cent to 103 per cent of the Government grants;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lokanath Misra.

(vi) does not maintain close and continuous rapport with the cultural institutions in the different States;

(vii) gives grants to cultural institutions on considerations of pulls and pressures and not on merit;

(viii) honoured persons who were not always the most meritorious; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remedy these defects ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D.P. YADAV) : (a) These observations are based on the information given in Chapter Five of the Report of the Reviewing Committee on the working of the Academies and Indian Council for Cultural Relations, copies of which have been placed on the table of the House. At the instance of the Reviewing Committee the replies given by the witnesses were analysed by the Institute of Mass Communication and were incorporated in the Report in that form.

(b) The Report of the Committee has been sent to the Akademi for its views and the decision of Government will be taken after receipt of the views.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know, Sir, whether the Minister after having gone through the report of the Academy is not of the opinion that the Academies have not been able to achieve the objectives for which they were established, and in view of that what particular steps does the Minister propose to take in order to get the objectives of the Academies fulfilled ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, the hon'ble Member will, I am sure, agree that before the Government takes a decision it should at least give an opportunity to the Academy which is an autonomous body to express its views. We are hoping that these views will be made known to the Government fairly soon. As soon as the views are made available to us the Government will take a decision. I may further add, Sir, that this Review Committee was a very high-powered committee consisting of a

number of hon'ble Members of Parliament and, therefore, there is no question of ignoring the recommendations of the Committee.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know, Sir, whether the hon'ble Minister's attention has been drawn to some of the reactions published in the Times of India of yesterday where the officials of the Academy have reacted violently to some of the recommendations of the Khosla Committee? If his attention has been drawn to these reactions, what are his reactions to it?

SHRI D. P. YADAV : I am sure the hon'ble Member will agree that it would not be proper for the Government to react to the views expressed by officials through newspapers. We must await the reactions of the Academy itself before we take a final decision.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : May I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that because of the stricture passed by the Khosla Committee the Academy has stopped all *ad hoc* grants to cultural institutions hampering the projects for which the grants were asked for?

SHRI D. P. YADAV : It is not so. The moment we get some further grants which we are contemplating the grants will be released to the different organisations under the Academy. However, we have been giving grants to those institutions who have been receiving regular grants.

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमन्, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेन्ट ने जो जो ग्रांट्स इस अकेडमी को दी उन ग्रांट्स के यूटेलाइजेशन के बारे में गवर्नमेन्ट ने कोई जानकारी की या कोई छानबीन या कोई इन्क्वायरी उसके बाद कभी की या नहीं और अगर वी तो क्या नहीं पर ऐसा भी नजर आया कि उन ग्रांट्स का मिसयूज हुआ है, मिसएप्रोप्रिएशन हुआ है, इम्बेजिलमेन्ट हुआ है और यदि हुआ है तो क्या उन ग्रांट्स को रोकने के लिये कोई सरकार की तरफ से कार्यवाही की गई। और अब जो आपने उनके खिलाफ कम्प्लेंट्स भेजे हैं तो क्या यह सच है कि आज अकेडमी ने आगे जिनको वह ग्रांट्स

देती थी उनको देना रोक दिया है और इस वजह से उन इन्स्टीट्यूशंस का काम रुक रहा है।

श्री डी०पी० यादव : श्रीमन्, जहाँ तक ग्रांट्स का सवाल है, करीब करीब 20-25 लाख रु० हम अकाडमी पर हर साल खर्च करते थे और उसमें से 6-7 लाख रु० उनके अंदर जो बाडीज थे दो-तीन, उनको दिया जाता रहा है। इसका एक्चुअल खर्च करीब 20 परसेंट आता है। कास्ट आफ इन्टेवल्लिशमेन्ट और बाकी और खर्चा कल्चरल डेवलपमेन्ट के लिए ही किया जा रहा है। यह कहना कि जो भी पैस इसमें लगाए गए सब बेकार गया, कुछ स्ट्रक्चर पास हुआ है, ऐसी बात नहीं है। उसमें कुछ अपने अपने आव्रजर्वेशन्स हैं। करीब 450 व्यक्तियों को एग्जामिन किया गया उनके रिएक्शन मालूम करने के लिए। कुछ लोगों ने कहा बहुत अच्छा है, कुछ लोगों ने कहा मध्यम दर्जे का है, कुछ लोगों ने कहा अच्छा नहीं है। इन सारी चीजों की जांच के लिए उनको समय देना होगा। तो हमने अकाडमी को समय दिया है और उसके बाद हम हाऊस के सामने...

डा० भाई महावीर : यादव साहब, मेरा प्रश्न यह नहीं था। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि जो ग्रांट्स दिए उनका यूटेलाइजेशन ठीक हो रहा है कि नहीं, इसके बारे में क्या सरकार ने आज तक कोई जाँच की या नहीं की, और अगर की तो उसके बारे में क्या रिजल्ट्स निकले और उसके आधार पर क्या सरकार को कोई मिस्प्रीप्रिएशन या इम्बेजिलमेन्ट कही नजर आया कि नहीं आया? इसका जवाब कृपया दें।

PROF S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, the hon. Member will appreciate that this is an autonomous organisation. If any specific cases of embezzlement are brought to the notice of the Government, the Government will certainly enquire into those specific cases. So far as the general functioning of the Akademi is concerned, a

high-power review committee was appointed by the Government and it went into all aspects of the functioning of the Akademi and it has submitted a report which is before the House.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI Sir, the report of the Review Committee reveals a very fantastic way of working of this Sangeet Natak Akademi. Many more things are there behind which have not been brought to light. Sir, we know that there is a Government representative in the Council to look after the working of this Council. May I know whether the high expenses on the establishment of the Akademi were never placed before the Council for its approval, though the rules require so, whether the Government representative in the Council has brought it to the notice of the Government and, if so, what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI D.P. YADAV : Sir, so far as the expenditure on the establishment of the Akademi is concerned, the Committee itself has let us know about it and we have also examined it. Para 5 of the question says :

“has a set up with administrative expenses too high, ranging from 64 per cent to 103 per cent of the Government grants;”

In this regard we have to say that in the report, there is no mention about high administrative expenditure in regard to the Sangeet Natak Akademi. The administrative expenditure of the Sangeet Natak Akademi is only about 20 per cent and I do not think that this 20 per cent out of this Rs. 20 lakhs is on the very big side,

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Sir that part of the question has not been answered, whether this has been placed before the Council for approval and whether the Government representative has brought it to the notice of the Government.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, the budget of the Akademi is approved by the Council. Unless the Akademi itself passes the budget, it cannot go through. There is in accordance with the constitution of the Akademi. Therefore, it would not

be correct to assume that the Council of the Akademi is not in the know of these things. But the observations of the Committee as incorporated in the report have been sent to the Akademi. We must await their reply. As soon as their reply is received, all further necessary action will be taken.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Sir, it appears from the report of the Review Committee that practically the Council was bypassed by a section of the officers in the Akademi either in distributing the grants or in taking decisions regarding the functioning of the Akademi itself.

In view of that I would like to know from the honourable Minister specifically whether the Government representative in the Council brought these facts to the notice of the Ministry. And, if so, what action did the Government take on it? In that connection I would like to know further, as has been pointed out, whether, in view of the suggestions and recommendations made by the committee, the Government is prepared to reconstitute the Akademi itself. Is he in a position to tell this House by what time the Government will arrive at a decision?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : The Government was aware of dissatisfaction with the functioning of the Akademi and that was one of the reasons which led to the appointment of such a high-power committee. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that the Government took no notice of it. The committee would not have been appointed if the need for a review had not been there. But so far as the precise time is concerned, I am afraid it will be difficult for me to indicate the precise time until we have received the report. And we are trying to expedite it as quickly as possible.

SHRI SUHRID MULLICK CHAUDHURY : I would like to know whether, in view of the report of the Khosla Committee, the Government would be reconstituting the Council and introduce necessary changes in its constitution.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Whatever action appears to be necessary on the

basis of the report, and after considering the replies of the Akademi, all those actions will certainly be taken.

SHRI J.S. TILAK : The Khosla Committee report has confirmed the general criticism that the Akademi's working is riddled with politics and bureaucracy. Will the Government scrap the Akademi and merge it with the Department of Culture?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I have already replied to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you have already answered that this will be done after the conclusions are arrived at.

श्री श्री ३म् प्रकाश त्यागी : मैं माननीय मंत्री से जानना चाहूंगा कि खोसला कमेटी ने अभी कुछ दिन पूर्व चल चित्रों के सम्बन्ध में कुछ सुझाव दिये हैं और यह कहा है कि चल चित्रों में कुछ कमी यह रह गई है कि वहां स्त्री पुरुष का अलिंगन और चुम्बन नहीं है इसलिए उसे जोड़ दिया जाय और इस प्रदन में डांस और ड्रामा भी शामिल है, तो मैं शिक्षा मन्त्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि खोसला कमेटी ने क्या आपको भी ड्रामा के सम्बन्ध में ऐसा कोई सुझाव दिया है ? यदि हां तो क्या सरकार इस को मानेगी ?

प्रो० नूरुल हसन : मैं माननीय सदस्य से दरखास्त करूंगा कि यह रिपोर्ट रखी जा चुकी है और उनके पास भी होगी। वह उस रिपोर्ट को पढ़ लें और फिर अपनी राय कायम कर लें कि कमेटी ने क्या सिफारिश की है।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, what is he saying ? He is asking us to read it. They are supposed to read it and tell us.

SHRI HABIB TANVIR : This is about the eighth month running this current financial year and the grants are being delayed by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. The Bhabha Committee's report was ignored for eight years. Now the Khosla Committee report is there. Already I believe elec-

tions have been held on the old lines which means a new lease of life has been given to these three Akademies for a full term . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put your question.

SHRI HABIB TANVIR : Now the Khosla Committee's report has shown that even worse than the Sangeet Natak Akademi are the other two Akademies. The other two Akademies have fared much worse than the Sangeet Natak Akademi. In view of this I see nothing happening for the next few years . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not putting your question.

SHRI HABIB TANVIR : In view of the urban, elitist, orientation of all the Akademies, I would like to know from the Ministry how far the recommendations of the Khosla Committee—the little good the committee has suggested—can be implemented, especially in view of the fact that the Akademies have already been permitted to function on the old lines. Even so, grants have not yet been given to the country's cultural organisations for the last eight months.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I do not know whether it is incumbent upon me to accept the sweeping comments on the working of the Committee itself. But so far as the question of the grant being given is concerned, I will certainly look into the matter, and if there is any undue delay, then we will try our best to ensure that the grants are paid.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : On a point of order. The hon. Member asked a very specific question about the urban and elitist policies of all the three Akademies. Why are they being allowed by the Government to pursue these policies ? The question, therefore, is whether the Government is prepared to change this policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He said he will look into it.